

*The Whitakers
of
The Holme
1337 to 1958*



*Chirger
in the county of Lancashire,
England*

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WHITAKER TAPE

This recording is being made on Sunday, Sept. 6, 1971, at the Holme, Cliviger, in the county of Lancashire, England, by Eric Halstead. It is made especially for Mr. Raumont McNair of Cedar Lodge, Bricket Wood, St. Albans, England. (London area.)

I have to apologize, Mr. McNair, for breaking my promise to send you this recording earlier, but I had difficulties, and eventually I have had to make a new recording.

This is a talk on the WHITAKERS and THE HOLME which I prepared about two years ago for the local Antiquarian Society.

This is how the talk went:

I think it would be impossible for anyone to live at The Holme and remain indifferent to the Whitaker family, who lived here in an unbroken line for five, or maybe six, hundred years. To me personally, an atmosphere of the old family permeated the house; it is a kindly atmosphere, and I never feel alone there. From time to time we have had visitors from America, descendants of Whitakers of Holme who emigrated to the American colonies some three and a half centuries ago. Many of these visitors enameate a personal aura which coincides most definitely with that intangivle influence which I sense to be about the place.

The surname Whitaker can be traced back in old Lancashire records to be about 200 years after the Norman Conquest. Before that time surnames were seldom used. People lived in small communities where every-one knew everyone else, and it was sufficient idenity to be known as Robert's son.

Any of these derivations would be more credible to me than the color white. For my part, I put my money on the wheat field. However, the true derivation of the surname is lost, also the time and circumstances of the family's arrival in Lancashire and their settlement at the Holme in Cliviger.

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~~at the Holme in Cliviger.~~

Dr. Thomas Dunham Whitaker, the historian, living and writing at The Holme in the late 1700's stated that he had everything but positive proof that his family and all the Whitakers in Lancashire were branches of the Whitakers of High Whitaker in Padiham, Padiham, not many miles from The Holme, is a very ancient township.

William the Norman, after the conquest, proceeded to apportion the land to his deserving henchmen, the barone. In return, they gave to him oaths of loyalty and paid fixed fees in cash, kind, or service. These overlords, or tenants-in-chief, subdivided their realms, making grants to their own friends and henchmen and sometimes to their previous Saxon landowners. In return, they demanded loyalty, rents, and services. They all made profits. And the matter of rendering services, when these entailed labor, was, as far as possible, passed down the line. This, of course, was the feudal system, which was operating in Europe at the time, and I think it was necessary and a good system, for the time being.

A DeLacy charter of 1302, confirming this grant, records that the previous tenant was one Robert of Holme. It would therefore appear that this Robert had held the land as a subtenant to _____ and that he now lost his tenure to the Middlemores, all, that is, except eight acres which he was still holding in 1311, nine years later. At this time the Middlemores holding was 60 acres. There is no trace of a son of these Middlemores, and Dr. T. D. Whitaker presumed that a daughter of the Middlemores married a Richard Whitaker from Padiham. From the incomplete records of the period it would appear that the Middlemore estate might have passed to the male side of the De la Leigh family and then to the _____ family who were holding land there in 1380. Richard Whitaker from Padiham is known to have been in this district in 1337, but it is not known where his homestead was situated. ~~The~~

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The Middlemores might have made a grant of land to him when he married their daughter, or he may have acquired the eight acres of land which had been retained by Robert of Holme.

Being established in such manner before the death of his wife's parents, he would have been in a good position to retain his holdings through the successive changes in the holdings of the main estate. This would seem to be a reasonable theory of how the Whitakers came to The Holme, and if correct, the date of their arrival here would have been 1337 or earlier. The family line can be traced with certainty to a Thomas Whitaker living at The Holme in 1431. It would be reasonable to assume that they were well established at that time. The precise boundaries of the estate are not recorded, but one thing is certain; the Whitakers came to The Holme; they prospered, and they stayed. The _ _ _ of Hopton and the Whitakers of Padiham would have been near neighbors. Both families held their land as free tenants, and the marriage between children of their families would be a distinct possibility.

Free tenants were the elite of the lord's tenants. In return for their obligations to the tenant-in-chief they had full control of their lands, being able to sublet or hand it down as they pleased. The Whitakers were well-established in Padiham in 1300, but of their arrival there no record has been found. But to hold lands as tenants it would seem logical to assume that they had powerful friends or had some special connection with the overlord, the DeLacys. They may even have had some DeLacey blood in their veins.

It is not known whether Richard came and took over a farmstead already in existence or if he built a new one for himself. The original building of The Holme would be combined dwelling house and farm, and good husbandry would have made the family practically self-supporting and show profits on wool, mutton, and perhaps on oats. There would be

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game in the woods and fish in the river.

The place name HOLME is of Norse derivation, meaning "land liable to be flooded." As a place name it is very widespread. I might say that the riverside meadows opposite The Holme are still liable to be flooded. Earliest maps of Lancashire show a manor house at The Holme. It was a building of some importance in late Tudor times.

There would be an abundance of oak in the valley, and the first manor house would have been of frame, as was common in this district. In late Tudor times the Whitakers were sufficiently wealthy and secure to commence the rebuilding of their house in masonry. The central hall and east wing were dealt with in about 1603. This portion would contain the private rooms of the family. The west wing, which would contain the domestic quarters, and according to Dr. Thomas Dunham Whitaker, one or more hide-holes for priests, was not rebuilt until 1717. This is somewhat of an enigma. How could the family at Holme remain Catholic when a son, William, was the most famous Protestant in England in Elizabeth's reign? William was the father of Jabez, who emigrated to America.

Another major building work was carried out in the 1850's, about the time when the railway came to the valley. Additions were made to the rear of the house at the time, including two bedrooms for the family, two for the servants, a housekeeper's room, and one for the butler; also a coach house, a harvest room, and a room for gutting the fish caught in the existing river Calder(?), and a newly built fishpond on the Clough behind the house. There are also laundry rooms and others. Scales were also built a short distance from the house, together with a joiner's shop, a saw pit, and a smithy.

The ordinance of 1843 shows a large building straddling the entrance to the drive to the house on the west.

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The stables and coach-house might well have been situated there before the 1850 alterations. There are indications that at the same time the course of the Clough, a riverlet, was diverted from a former course behind the house on the north side where it would probably act as a main sewer to a new course passing the house on the east and going across the meadows to join the River Caulder in a fresh place.

The southern wall of the house was breached in the center to make a new entrance door to the porch, giving direct access to the main hall. Formerly, as was usual in this part of England, the entrance had been to some minor hall or lobby, in this case to the west of the main hall, and there had been no direct access to the main hall and the quarters and the private quarters of the family, which were in the east wing.

In carrying out some repairs a few years ago, the original oaken doorframe was uncovered. It was still in sound condition. Above it we partly uncovered a massive oak beam which had probably formed part of the old timber frame building. There are some forty rooms in the house, and I once counted thirty-two chimney pots on the roof.

I have it on good authority that there was a regular delivery of one ton of coal each week to the house, and often I wonder how many servants were needed in winter time to attend the fires. On the rare occasions when I have had five fires to attend to, I haven't had much time for any thing else.

The water supply to the house was also a major undertaking. From a spring on the far side of the valley, to the south, the water was gravity fed through pipes to a stone-built cisters in a field high up behind the house to the north. I should guess that the cisters would give a sixty-foot head of water to the house. It also supplies water to the church school, four cottages, two farmsteads, and an inn. There would be one or two miles of piping in the project. Also a nine-inch diameter castiron water pipe was laid from the fish pond on the Clough to the rear of the house to which fire hoses could be connected. Later it was used to run a dynamo to supply

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electricity to the house and to the church.

The Whitakers had their own electricity supply before electric lights appeared in the nearby township of Burnley.

The Whitakers ~~had~~ through the ages have built three churches in the district. The first was the old Chantry Chapel built by Richard Whitaker of Holme just a few hundred yards to the west of The Holme itself. The foundation date is uncertain. Some authorities give it as ~~just~~ before the dissolution of the monastaries, 1536 or 37, while others, including Dr. Thomas D. Whitaker, give a date just after the dissolution. I see no mention of the Chantry Chapel in the records of Whalley Abbey. Perhaps the building was commenced before the dissolution and completed afterwards. It was a small building, some 14 by 6 yards, inside measurements, and would probably be used by the Whitakers and the local farmers. But the use of this chapel was short-lived. For some ten years after the monastaries were suppressed, another law was passed which suppressed the Chantry Chapels. There is no record of any activity in the church for about a hundred years, when a stipend curate was appointed with a salary of 50 pounds a year, which he did not appear to have earned. Another hundred years passed before the chapel was in regular use again, by which time it had become somewhat ruinous. Shortly afterward in 1788 it was torn down and a new church built nearby on slightly higher ground by Thomas Dunham Whitaker of The Holme. This was consecrated in 1794.

About one hundred years later a new chancel and an organ were given to the church by Mrs. Mary Charlotte Whitaker, who was the last of the family in direct line of succession to live in The Holme. This good lady also built a church in the village of Cornholm (?), a few miles distant on the opposite side of the hill.

The church at Holme contains some pieces of woodwork which are thought to have come from Warwick and the Kirkstall Abbey. A vault inside the church contains the remains of some of the Whitaker family.

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Before leaving the church, I would like to quote a passage from Mr. Frank Redmond's booklet published in 1969 to mark the 175th anniversary of the foundation. He writes, "Looking down the pathway from the the west door, the view is one of beauty and tranquility, with so much unchanged by the demands of the present age. The scene stretches out beyond the billage, through the fields, woodlands, and scattered farmsteads until it meets the skyline on the lonely side of the field. Beacon lights were made on the fell to mark the beginning of the pilgrimage of grace during the reign of Henry VIII and later in 1588 to warn the country side of the approach of the Spanish Armada." One of the last beacon fires to have been made on this eerie pike was to celebrate the 25 years of George V's reign.

Now for the family of the Whitakers--whatever it is that causes a family line to produce outstanding men generation after generation, the Whitakers certainly possessed it. Perhaps men are spurred on by pride of their ancestors and try to emulate them, or perhaps it is a matter of their genes, passed on from father to son. I give credit to the genes. They specialized in producing theologians, administrators, writers, surgeons, and similar type of men. One would think there would have been some anti-social ones over the centuries; I have found no record of such. If one can believe Shakespeare's lines,

" The evil which men do lives after them,
The good is often interred with their bones..."

In 1530 Thomas Whitaker married an Elizabeth Nowell of Reed, whose brother, Alexander, was Dean of St. Paul's, London. Another brother, Lawrence, was Dean of Litchfield. Another brother, Robert, was ~~attor~~ attorney of the Court of Wards.

The third son of Thomas and Elizabeth was William, born in 1438 at The Holme. After an early education at Burnley Grammer School, he went to London at the age of twelve, to his uncle the Dean of St. Paul's,

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who gave him the schooling which launched him on an outstanding ecclesiastical career. He was also assisted by his other uncle, Robert, who was a close friend of the Royal favorites, the Cecils. Later he went To Cambridge where he distinguished himself, and at the age of 31 he was elected Master of St. John's College there. He was a Puritan and a Calvinist, an eminent controversialist and a writer, refuting the arguments of the Roman Church. Even his principal Catholic adversaries admitted their admiration for him. He became the most famous theologian of Tudor times in England.

Only a few years ago I received a request for information on William from a Dutch student at the University of Utrecht.

On William's death in 1595 Queen Elizabeth spoke of purchasing his library to assist his widow, but there is no record of this act of regal charity taking place.

Two portraits of Dr. William hang in St. John's College Cambridge, and another of John Ryland's library in Manchester.

William's elder son, Alexander, also entered the church, and he emigrated to the new colony of Virginia in 1611. There he had the care of the congregation of Henrico on the James River, which was the second parish to be established in the colony. He became known as the Apostle of Virginia.

He baptized the celebrated Indian princess, Pocahontas. A painting of this ceremony now hangs in the United States Capitol building and carries an acknowledgement of his services. He also performed the marriage ceremony of Pocahontas and John Rolfe. Pocahontas came to England, died there, and was buried just outside London.

William's ^{youngest} ~~eldest~~ son, Jabez, followed Alexander to Virginia in 1620 where he settled and became a member of the House of Burgesses there. From Jabez many of the Whitakers now living in America can trace their direct descent.

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During the following fifty years at least eleven more whitakers e
emigrated to the colonies, although it is improbable that all were
from The~~d~~ ~~JH~~ J Holme family.

I have had the privilege of meeting several of the descendants of
Jabez, and I will mention a few just to prove the genes still retain
their potency. One of these, the Rev. James C. Whitaker, of Westfield,
New Jersey, has visited us twice, and he has given me assistance in
preparing these notes. James has in his charge the First Methodist
Church of Westfield. It is hoped that he will take a service in the
church at The Holme on his next visit. You see the genes are still
producing theologians.

Last year we had calls from three other descendants of Jabez-- a
surgeon, James W. McLaurin, M.D., of Baton Rouge; also, Samuel Edward
and Charles Evans Whitaker of Kansas City, Missouri. One of these
gentlemen held the position of Judge of the Supreme High Court.
Richard B. Whitaker, who called in 1964, was an architect.

Another of the family, F. H. Whitaker, of Delhi, La., first visited
England just after the war, a special representative of the U. S. Dept.
of Agriculture. On a subsequent visit he purchased several family
heirlooms from The Holma, including oil paintings, a dining table with
chairs which were said to have been made from a Yew Tree which grew be-
hind the house and was a natal tree of the father of Jabez. Francis
designed and built a new house to hold his treasures. I have not yet
met Francis, but he, too has given considerable help in compiling these
notes. His grandfather, I might mention, owned a 5000 acre cotton
plantation.

At least two of the Whitakers who emigrated before the colonies brok e
With England fought with the colonists during the Revolutionary War.

In America the Whitakers have the reputation of being a vigorous,
resourceful, and self-reliant race.

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I cannot end this Whitaker sage without saying something about Dr. Thomas Dunham Whitaker, who was, in my opinion, the most outstanding character of this line of men. He was born in 1759.

Dr. Thomas Dunham Whitaker came to live at The Holme when he was one year old when his father inherited the estate. Although he suffered continuously from illnesses in infancy, he went to Cambridge at the age of sixteen, studied law there, and took his Bachelor's degree. His father died when Thomas Dunham was only 23, whereupon he came and took over the inheritance at The Holms. In the following 39 years of his life he displayed remarkable energies and talents. I will list some of his achievements. He took the degree of Dr. of Law; he planted more than 400,000 trees on his estate and carried out some natural landscaping. He built the new church at Holme. He was ordained in 1785 and was licensed to perpetual curacy of Holme Church after the rebuilding. He became Vicar of Whalley and Vicar of Blackburn and Vicar of - - - - - / He was a justice of the peace of Lancashire, and also justice of the peace of the west region of Yorkshire. He sat on turnpike boards. He was a patron of Turner, the artist. He instituted a local literary club. In 1820, he was chief magistrate of the district, and refused to turn out the military on rioting miners who were marching on the town of Burnley, but he went alone in his carriage to meet them, and he succeeded in persuading them to return quietly to their homes. By this action he probably prevented a massacre.

He preached in many places and occasionally published a sermon. I have one of these preached and made in 1800. He was a typographer and an archeologist of merit. He had a valuable collection of local items of the Roman occupation of this district. His writings were, in quality and quantity, most extraordinary. His best known work in our district is "The History of the Parish of Whalley", a colossal work, and which has served

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for succeeding writers, and for myself, as a textbook in compiling this talk.

He wrote similar histories of Craven and of Richmondshire. His research for these three took him in research in countless archives of countries, families, and churches. He must have spend countless hours in the saddle or in his carriage. He wrote historical works and re-edited the writings of former scholars. He had ~~4~~ five children. The Whitaker genes really excelled themselves in this man. On his death, in 1821, he was laid to rest in his own church at Holme in a coffin made from a large tree, one of his own planting and which he had previously selected for the purpose.

On the death of his great-granddaughter, Mary Charlotte, in 1912, without children, the direct line of the family ended. The estate then passed to another branch of Thomas Dunham's children. His eldest daughter, Lucy, had married a Stalkie, one of the county families. Her daughter had married a Power. Their daughter, Thomas Dunham's great-great-granddaughter, Eleanor, had married a Col. Francis Hastings McNamara, and her family inherited the estate. Her son Charles died in 1936 while his father was still living at The Holme with his second wife. The wife, Mrs. McNamara lived on after the Colonel's death until 1958, when his son Charles' daughter, Patricia, inherited the estate. She decided not to take up residence at The Holme, and the estate was sold. The Holme and some 25 acres of enclosing land came to my own family, and the contents of The Holme were disposed either privately or by auction.

When we came to live here in 1959, just before Christmas, we found the house was badly in need of repairs. Evidently no repair work had been carried out for many, many years. I am afraid if this had continued for another one or two years, the house would have been past repair. The roof was in a bad condition, and quite a lot of the roof we have had to strip

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and re-roof. Woodworm was rampant, and we had woodworm specialists working in the house for three months, and I think they have solved that problem.

There have been no proper fires in the house for many, many years, and the place was very cold and damp. However, we liked the place, and we felt at home immediately we stepped into it. The house is finely situated, has a fine view across the valley, just where what is known as the Cliviger Gorge commences.

However, this has come to the end of my little talk. I hope you find it interesting, and we are always pleased to welcome visitors from the descendants of Jabez. Thank you very much, and we hope to see you again someday.

Brought by Raymond F. McNair to
Mrs. Hubert (Grace) H. Hunt, Jr.
Box 296, Salem, Ark. 72576
October 12, 1971

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Dr. William Whitaker, (1648-1695) Master of St. John's College was the father of Rev. Alexander and Captain Jabez Whitaker,

THE FIRST OF OUR LINE IN AMERICA

Capt. Jabez Whitaker, brother of Rev. Alexander Whitaker, who emigrated to Jamestown Colony, Va., about 1620, was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1623 and a member of the Council in 1626. He married Mary, daughter of Sir John Bourchier, and was the father of at least one son, William, who was born in England about 1618 and first appears in Virginia records in 1639. He resided in James City County, and left issue there of two sons, William and Richard. Of the first of these brothers, little is known, but Richard resided in Warwick County, Va., and died there about 1696. By his wife, probably Elizabeth Pyland, he had a son John. John Whitaker, son of Richard of Warwick County, Va., married Martha Gough of the same place and had issue of eight children: Richard, Gough, Robert, John James, William Dudley and Martha. Of whom the sons settled in Halifax County, N.C. in the early eighteenth century.

Of the last mentioned brothers, sons of John and Martha (Gough), Richard left issue in Halifax County, by his wife, Elizabeth Cary, of John, Richard, Cary, Anne, Elizabeth, Tempy and Martha.

Dudley settled in Tarboro County, N. C. and left issue by his wife, Mary Pierce, of Francis, Lunsford, Robert, Thomas and Dudley Whitaker.

(The above from Media Research Bureau, Washington, D.C.)

(In letter of Mar. 16, 1968, from Mrs. Lula Skillman, copy of Deed Record Book 17, P. 293, Halifax County, N.C.:
March 4, 1791, Lunsford Whitaker to Dudley Whitaker for 100#, all his interest in the lands of his Father, Dudley Whitaker, deceased, on the side of Deep Creek, 709 Acres Adj.: Samuel, Edward, Tobias, & Robert Whitaker. 1761, Richard Whitaker, John Whitaker, Wm. Whitaker, James Whitaker, George and Dudley Whitaker of Halifax to their brother Robert Whitaker, a Negro boy: Book 8, Page 152.

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Lunsford Whitaker had twelve children, sons; Eli Calvin, Dudley, Rovert, Lunsford and John. Eli Calvin was the youngest son, and his Father and Mother died when he was a very small boy. He in company with an older brother, Lunsford, came to this portion of the country; (Tenn&Miss.). He was so young that he remembers very little about his relatives. A copy of a letter from Mrs. E.S. Whitaker, Cincinnati, O., to Eli Calvin (1868) advises him that his Grandfather's name was Dudley and that his Uncles' names were: Robert, Dudley, Thomas and Francis. Mr. E.S. Whitaker at that time was compiling a historical Genealogical chart of the Whitaker families.

(The above information from zerox copies of letters dated, Oct. 30, 1879, and Jan. 5, 1880) from Mary A. Whitaker, third wife of Eli Calvin to Mrs. Ester Caroline Whitaker, widow of John, who was the son of Eli Benton Whitaker and Martha Branch. She was John's 4th wife.

These letters were furnished us through the courtesy of Mrs. Katherine W. Coulborn, of Fort Arthus, Texas, Feb. 26, 1968, to whom we are gratefully indebted. Mrs. Skillman forwarded letters from us to Mrs. Coulborn, and to both of them we are forever grateful.

Eli Calvin Whitaker, 1920-1884, Born in Halifax County, N.C.' five or six miles from Enfield, N.C. (family Bible), son of Lunsford Whitaker, married first, Emoline Davenport, and had issue of sons: Francis, George Rix, Warren Caldwell and daughter Martha. Married 2nd., Kate Whitson, had children: Eli Meredith, Laura and Mary Anna. Married 3rd, Mrs. Mary A. Yowell and had daughters: Nona, Josie and Fannie. Mary A. Yowell Whitaker's daughter, Alice by former marriage, married George Rix, son of Eli Calvin and Emoline.

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Eli Meredith Whitaker, son of Eli Calvin and Kate Whitson, married Mary Acee and had children: Henry Calvin, Lula, George Warren and Eli Meredith. Eli Meredith II, 1897, son of Eli Meredith and Mary Acee, married Harriette Margarete Calhoun, April 22, 1930, and have one son, Eli Meredith III. Eli Meredith III, v Sept. 7, 1932, married Arleta Campbell, Oct. 20, 1957 and they have three sons: Eli Meredith IIII, Scot Campbell and Mathew Kent.

	birth	marriage	death
George Rix Whitaker married	June 30, 1852	Dec. 18, 76	Apr. 20, 1919
Alice Louise Yowell	Aug 31, 1857		Feb. 16, 1928

Children,

Geo. Annie Whitaker	Apr. 4, 1878		July 27, 78
Dudley Vassar "	Aug. 21, 1879	July 18, 1912	Aug. 24, 1955
Mary Frances "	July 15, 1881		Aug. 10, 1881
Geo Pool "	Oct. 3, 1882		June 23, 1956
Son "	Aug. 7, 1885		Aug. 29, 1885
Kittie Clyde "	Oct. 29, 1891	Dec. 1, 1912	
Ruth Carl "	Jan. 23, 1894	Dec. 4, 1912	

Dudley Vassar Whitaker married Cora England, no children.
Kittie Clyde Whitaker married Jason (Jack) C. Ryan,
daughter, Cora Louise Ryan, b. Apr, 1915, married Joe B. Rife,
Ruth Carl Whitaker married W. Adrain Turner,
daughter, Alice Louise Turner, b. April, 1915, married S.L. Kennedy.

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Nov. 4, 1972

Dear Folks,

Stella and I were delighted to receive that good letter from Eli. The Lord must still have something for you to do. We were sorry to learn of Harriette's problem with her eyes but glad the medication is effective.

At the conclusion of the Olympics I rented a car. This was the beginning of a 3500 kilometer drive on the continent that stopped in Paris, a flight to London and a thousand mile drive on the British Isles, ended this sage for the Whitakers.

From Munich we drove south through the Alps in Austria and down to the Brenner Pass, shades of Hitler's meetings. Italy lay ahead with all the ruins and glories of the past. Florence held the cathedrals and treasures of yesterday along with Michaelangelo's David. The beauties of the Vatican was at Rome. One could feel and see the power, the riches, the prestige, the artistry of the Roman church, but did not see its faith. We were thrilled upon viewing the Coliseum where so many were killed for their faith in Christ. Now that kind of faith is needed today. It surprised us to see that it had been taken over by cats. Just glancing around you could see 30 or 40 cats, that were running over the ruins. We did drive along the French and Italian Riviera, passing through Monaco but didn't see Princess Grace. Before ending in Paris we cut over to Geneva, Switzerland. It is an old, clean, livable city. One could understand nations wanting to meet here for conferences. Of course, we had to think of Pop when we drove into Paris. All those stories he would tell when, as kids, we would ask about his life, flashed across my mind. Paris is like NYC, a place to see but who would want to live there?

Next we flew to London, rented another car and drove to some friends in Cornwall. From here we started out for the Whitaker homestead. Before leaving for Europe I had written Mr. Eric Halstead, asking permission to visit the Holme. He did invite us to make the trip. We must give the Lord the credit for this opportunity. When I learned early in the year of my trip to Munich, I decided not to visit Memphis this year. Yet the opportunity came with ten

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days off, so we made the trip. Why after all these years of Harriette's looking for the Whitakers should she have this information on the Holme. Then, with Eli sick, how did she think about giving it to me? It was the Lord.

The old Whitaker manor house is located in the county of Lancashire in the northwestern part of England. Some of the large cities in this county are Liverpool, Blackpool, Manchester and Burnley. The Rural District of Burnley is made up of 20 parishes, one of which is Cliviger. Cliviger covers an area of 6,745 acres with a population of 1,526. This parish combines the hamlets of Mereclough, Overtown, Walk Mill, Red Lee and Holme. Holme of Holme Chapel, and the old Established Church of St. John is here, is where the Whitakers started. This is in the Cliviger Gorge about which Jessica Lofthouse writes in her book, Lancashire's Old Families, "The Gorge of Cliviger, a long and solitary pass through the English Appennine, where eagles long ago clung to over-hanging rock spurs and instinctively the traveller struck spurs into his horse and accelerated his pace." In todays guidebook one reads "From Burnley to Todmorden the road passes through the forbidding and romantic Cliviger Gorge. To me it was a peaceful valley with hills overlooking that have been denuded of trees, yet Dr. Whitaker was said to have planted 433,000 trees, larch, mountain ash and birch between 1784 and 1799. This land had been branted to Richard de Whitaker (I wonder how that "de" got there), and remained with them until sold in 1959. It was in the 1330's that Richard took over.

The house is stone now, originally timber, two story and of tudor design. It spreads out about 100 feet with wings on either side and the entrance is now in the center. Another wing on the back extends from the center, making the house about 100 feet in depth. Since this old stone house has been added to through out the past centuries, no one really known what the original looked like. One usually expects English homes to be small, but the entrance room of the Holme is about 24 by 40 feet. There

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There is a fireplace on either side. The walls are covered with dark oak paneling and the ceiling has heavy beams. The fire place on the left has two coats of arms above it, one the Halsteads and the other the Whitakers. Walking straight ahead through massive doors, one saw a high vaulted stair well with leaded stained glass windows that came from the Whalley Church. Incidentally, today in this church there is a stained glass window that contains 25 families, one is the Whitaker's. The rooms in the wings are about 30 by 35 feet. One is the dining room that contains a side board so massive, nearly 12 feet long, it was left when the contents were auctioned. The stone fireplace had a large dark wooden mantel that was held up by uniquely carved wooden columns. Near this fire-place was another sideboard that was covered with carvings depicting Biblical scenes.

On the other wing was a room about the same size as the dining area. It was here that William Whitaker was born. Again Miss Lofthouse says, "William was taken under Uncle Alexander's (Nowell) wing at St. Paul's School and went to Cambridge where his brilliance led to his election as professor at a very early age. In dispute few could master him, though the most vocal Papists pitted their wits against him and Father Campion attacked him in his finest rhetoric. His death came too soon, through excess of study when Master of St. John's College. In his weakened state he set off for Holme but on route fever struck him down on the 5th of Dec., 1595. "The most learned heretic that I have ever read", wrote a Papist. Queen Elizabeth gave him the Chancellorship of St. Paul's: Lord Burleigh chose him as his chaplain". One can understand why the portrait of the young queen, Elizabeth, had long been treasured by the Whitakers who reached prominence in her reign. William was the father of Alexander, the first missionary to Virginia, and Jabez who started the Whitakers in America. Alexander is remembered as the clergyman who baptized the princess Pocahontas, after her conversion to the Christian faith and married her to John Rolfe.

**Jabez was born 2 days after his father was buried, the name means
"born in time of trouble".*

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Whitaker Family**

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Getting back to the Holme, the up stairs rooms are connected by a long pannelled hall with a sky light. Mr. Halstead had made one room light and cheery by painting the dark panel wall white. It had always been called Mrs. Whitaker's room. At the bed were two wires to pull. One alerted the servants and the other lifted a bolt in the door. This is the room Stella and I were to have spent the night. As we went through the library Mr. Halstead pulled down a book containing The Church of England Magazine printed in 1837. In the front was the Whitaker coat of arms identifying it as a book from the Whitaker library.

Seeing this old home I could only say to Mr. Halstead that instead of my being here it should be Aunt Harriette. When I think of all the work that you and Eli have put into the Whitaker line, you are the ones who should have seen this old Holme. Eric Halstead was very kind and extends an open invitation to all Jabez descendants to visit him. He had spent many years living abroad for British firms. Upon retiring, he purchased the Holme and invested quite a bit of capital in it. In fact it is begining to drain him dry as there is too much for one man to do, especially one not in the prime of life. Besides his wife, a son, his wife and two children live there. The son and family will be moving soon. I suggested that the Holme be incorporated and the shares sold to the "cousins" there and abroad. This way you would have a place to stay while in England.

"Lancashire's Old Families " was published a few months ago. Mr. Halstead had a copy autographed by the author. I got it from him as he will contact the author for another. It has two pages on the Holme but most of the information you already had. The cover of the book shows the heraldic east window in Whalley Church, displaying shields of ancient families in the parish. The Whitaker one, as I said earlier, is there.

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Whitaker Family**

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On Mr. Halstead's tape a rev. James C. Whitaker is mentioned, I contacted him before leaving for Europe and we plan to get together to compare notes. He said the Whitakers were always interested in tracing their lines.

Having given Mr. Halstead credit to you and Lula Skillman for our being there, I wrote her a card saying I had visited the Holme. A letter came from her the other day. She thought the card came from Warren. I am going to write her now, telling in more detail about our visit. I also must get the info to Pop and Jim so have plenty of typing to do. Will close.

Love,
(signed) George,

Me too !Stella

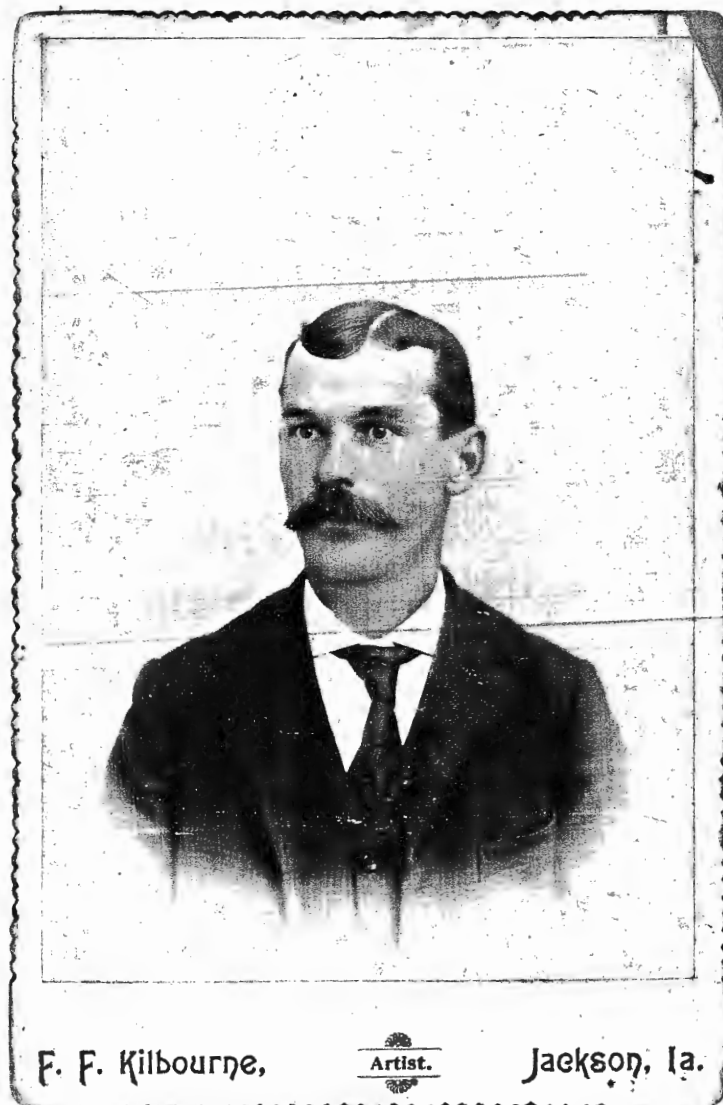
CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM.

This Certifies that on the 30th day of May
in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Nine hundred and
Fifteen Miss Louise Turner
was baptized by me H. H. Cudd
in East Baton Rouge County, State of Louisiana

Names of Parents { W. A. Turner
Mrs W. A. Turner

Member of L. A. Conf., M. E. Church, South.

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Whitaker Family



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Whitaker Family

DIED.
At his home in this city in the early hours of Sunday morning, of pneumonia, Mr. George Whitaker, long a valued citizen of Holly Springs.
In the absence of his pastor, Rev. Mr. Sargent of the Methodist church the funeral services were conducted from the house by Rev. C. L. Wesson.
Mr. Whitaker left beside a wife, four children to mourn his loss, all of whom had the privilege of attending him in his last hours. Two daughters, Mrs. W. A. Turner, of Baton Rouge, La., Mrs. J. C. Ryan, of the H. S. experiment station, the sons G. P. Whitaker, of this city, and D. V. Whitaker, of Greenwood, whose wife was also present. *Apr 19 1919*

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**George Poole Whitaker
Services Last Wednesday**
Services for George Poole Whitaker, 73, of North Little Rock, Ark., were held at Reynolds Funeral Home last Wednesday, with burial at Hill Crest Cemetery.
Mr. Whitaker, who was born and reared at Holly Springs, died suddenly last Monday while visiting his sister-in-law, Mrs. Dudley Whitaker, near Brandon.
A retired brakeman for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, he was a member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and a Methodist. He leaves two sisters, Mrs. J. C. Ryan of Brandon and Mrs. W. A. Turner of Baton Rouge, La.

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One of the family murdered in Leake county, Miss., October 18, 1899, out of which grew the lynching of Joe Lefflore, a negro, and for alleged complicity in which Russell Broach, white, was yesterday acquitted at Carthage.

**Pascagoula Public Library
Genealogy & Local History Dept.
Whitaker Family**

CARD OF THANKS.

We take this method of expressing appreciation of the many acts of kindness shown us by sympathizing friends, who were unwearied in their attentions during the last illness of our beloved husband and father, Mr. George Whitaker.

Mrs. George Whitaker
G. P. Whitaker.
D. V. Whitaker.
Mrs. W. A. Turner.
Mrs. J. C. Ryan.

**Dudley V. Whitaker
Last Rites Thursday**

Aug 24-53

Funeral services will be held at 4 p. m. Thursday at the graveside in Brandon cemetery for Dudley Vassar Whitaker, 76, who died at the Brandon hospital Wednesday afternoon after several days' illness. The Rev. Cary Cox will officiate.

Mr. Whitaker was born and reared in Holly Springs, but had resided in Brandon for the past twenty two years. He was a member of the Methodist church and a veteran of the Spanish American war.

In addition to his wife, Mrs. Cora England Whitaker, he is survived by two sisters, Mrs. J. C. Ryan, Brandon and Mrs. W. A. Turner of Baton Rouge, La.; and one brother, G. P. Whitaker of Little Rock, Ark.

Mr. Whitaker's body will lie in state at Baldwin Funeral parlors until eight o'clock Thursday morning.

MRS. ALICE WHITAKER DIES

Mrs. Alice Whitaker, widow of George R. Whitaker, died suddenly last Thursday morning about 9 o'clock in Dr. Ira Seale's office in the Tyson Drug Co's building.

Mrs. Whitaker arrived in Holly Springs Wednesday morning from Ecru Miss., where she had been staying with her daughter, Mrs. Jack Ryan. She was visiting Mr. and Mrs. Clinard Brown here and went up town Thursday morning and was taken sick in L. G. Fant's office.

She grew worse on the way to Dr. Seal's office and arriving there was placed on a couch and expired in a few moments from heart trouble.

The body was taken to the home of old friends and former neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. John S. Hastings, and the funeral took place from there ~~Thursday~~ *Fri* afternoon.

Mrs. Whitaker was a long member of the Methodist Church, but an old friend Rev. J. P. Horton of Memphis, pastor of the Central Avenue Baptist Church, was asked to conduct the services. He was assisted by Rev. J. M. Bradley and Rev. G. C. Sandusky. Burial was by the side of her husband in Hill Crest Cemetery. *Feb 17-1928*

Mrs. Whitaker is survived by two sons and two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Turner of Baton Rouge, Mrs. Jack (Clyde) Ryan of Ecru, George and Dudley Whitaker of El Dorado, Ark., and Jackson, Miss.

Out of town relatives who attended the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ryan and daughter, Cora of Ecru, George and Dudley Whitaker of Arkansas, El Dorado, Ark., and Jackson, Miss., Walter Whitaker of Memphis, Miss Bessie Whitaker of Jackson, Miss., Miss Annie Mansker of Grenada.

Pall bearers chosen from old neighbors and friends were Chester McAlexander, Con W. Bonds, Russell Brown, J. H. Shelton, John S. Hastings, Will Anderson and John S. Doxey.

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to express our hearty appreciation to the dear ones who administered to our mother's last earthly needs. Also to our many friends for their sympathy, services and beautiful flowers.

Mrs. Adrien Turner,
Mrs. Jack Ryan, daughters
Miss Ione Mansker Niece.
George and Dudley Whitaker
Sons.

*June 25-1956
Funeral 26th*

**G. P. Whitaker
Rites Wednesday**

George P. Whitaker, 73, of North Little Rock, Ark., died Monday night while visiting his sister-in-law, near Brandon.

Relatives found his body early Tuesday. A physician said he had been dead for several hours.

Whitaker was a native of Holly Springs, Miss., but had lived in North Little Rock for several years.

He was a retired brakeman for the Missouri Pacific Railroad and was a member of the Methodist church and a member of the brotherhood of railway trainmen.

Survivors include two sisters, Mrs. J. C. Ryan of Brandon and Mrs. W. A. Turner of Baton Rouge, La.

His body was sent from Baldwin Funeral Home Wednesday to Holly Springs. Funeral services were to be held there at 2 p. m. Wednesday.

Interment was to be in the Holly Springs cemetery.

Deaths

Mr. Jones
6-10-91

TOM J. JONES, 84, of the Turkey Fork community of Greene County. Service at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Freeman Funeral Home Chapel, Leakesville.

Also See:

- 1. John Osborne Austin-One hundred & sixty Allied Families*
- 2. The Parker Family, Johnson Co., N. C. & related families*
- 3. Parker in America 1911*